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SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that this is not an isolated case; in fact there are several ration shops doing blackmarketing in rice?" (Laughter).

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is only such of those as are caught that are prosecuted."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIKAR :—" Are Government confident that after decontrol markets will not become jet black?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not know what the hon. Member means. If he means that the market is already black and decontrol will make it blacker still, I can understand. But I do not know whether it is jet black or light black."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think this question of colour may be discussed day after to-morrow."

Plans for the expansion of the transmission and distribution lines of electricity.

* 202 *Q.*—SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the plans for expansion of the transmission and distribution lines of electricity stating the districts to be served by them and the villages to be served thereunder and towns, etc.;

(*b*) at what stage is the investigation of a hydro-electric site in Lammasinghi and Chettipet and when, if at all, will it mature to a plan;

(*c*) at what stage of progress is the Madura Thermal Scheme sanctioned by the Government in April 1946—how much has been spent thereon;

(*d*) whether a 4,000 K.W. set planned originally for erection at Nayudupet was diverted to another place; if so to which place; and whether the diversion was recouped; if not when is it proposed to recoup the same;

(*e*) whether the boilers (80,000 lb.) ordered for extensions to Madras Electric Supply Corporation have arrived and whether they have been utilized, and if so how; and

(*f*) whether generating sets therefor have been also obtained and, if so, whether these have been fitted up?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) to (*f*) Attention is invited to the paper[a] placed on the table."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the ryots or villagers who require power are required to guarantee a certain percentage of return before connections are given or before lines are laid?"

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 299–302 infra.

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That guarantee is insisted upon with a view to decide priorities. Government are unable to give all the connections demanded; so they prefer connections where there is a larger demand."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know what is the revenue return asked for as guarantee? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"Notice. I think it is roughly on the basis of ten persent return; which means that there should be a sufficient number of connections. We insist upon it because there are a large number of demands elsewhere."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether this return is insisted upon in all cases, or only in cases of connection for agriculture? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The question of extension does not arise except with reference to agricultural connection."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the guarantee of a return of ten per cent is required for a particular specified period? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir. Government have come across a few cases of big landlords requesting for connection, and therefore Government insist on it; unless we expect in the course of a few years there will be a sufficient number of connections to give an adequate return, the connections cannot be given."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if a large number of small ryots in an area ask for extension, will Government in such cases consider the desirability of not insisting upon a particular percentage of return and also not insist on a particular period for which the guarantee should be given, but look to the benefits that will be conferred by the extension? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Exactly so; we are not very strict."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIKAR :—" May I know whether the parties are asked to pay the charges for extensions when they are required for agricultural purposes by companies? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Notice."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Are Government aware or rather is it a fact that more than 300 applications for pumping installation have been pending in Sriperumbudur from July 1946?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It is a question of unavailability of materials and want of sufficient load."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" May I know the number and names of villages to be served by this scheme? "

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The hon. Member knows the area is large, and if the information is to be furnished it will be a very big list. I promised yesterday we would issue a Press Note. Even that has come to four pages. So I do not think that it would be possible to furnish such a big list."

Ports administered by the Madras Government.

* 203 *Q*.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) what are the ports administered by the Madras Government;

(*b*) the number of vessels which called at the ports administered by the Madras Government, the tonnage, and the number of passengers passing through, since 1938–39 (yearly);

(*c*) whether the Government have any schemes for the development of the ports or any of them;

(*d*) if so, what are the schemes and what are the estimated costs; and

(*e*) whether there is a proposal to develop Tuticorin and Negapatam as major ports in view of their importance as main outlets from South India to Ceylon and Malaya respectively?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) to (*e*) Attention is invited to the paper[a] placed on the table."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Are Government aware that embarking and disembarking at the port of Negapatam are painful, cumbersome and dangerous operations?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would suggest to the hon. Member to put a separate question."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" With reference to clause (*e*) of the question may I ask, in view of the fact that more than 5 lakhs of passengers pass through the port of Negapatam, whether the Government will convert the port into a deep set port?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It has not been possible to make it into a deep sea port. I do not think it is worthwhile pursuing it as the Government of India are considering that question."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is it a fact that Rs. 50 lakhs had accumulated under the Minor Ports Fund and they were transferred to the general revenues in 1938? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That was so, and we are getting it back with compound interest."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" When the money is available back again for improvement of minor ports, will it then become possible to develop Negapatam as a deep sea port? "

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 302–307 *infra*.